

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action transmitted February 15, 2008 ("*Office Action*"). At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 1-22 were pending in the Application. The Office Action rejects all pending claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,949,786 issued to Bellenger ("*Bellenger*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,902 issued to Runaldue, et al. ("*Runaldue*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on the ground that *Bellenger* and *Runaldue*, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all limitations of the claims.

Consider Applicants' independent Claim 1, which recites:

A switch comprising:
a plurality of ports operable to communicate packets;
a switch fabric operable to transport received packets between the ports;
a plurality of memory banks logically divided into a plurality of rows, wherein each of the rows comprises a storage location from each of the memory banks, each of the storage locations capable of maintaining a routing entry;
an overflow buffer comprising a plurality of overflow storage locations each capable of maintaining a routing entry; and
a memory control module operable to receive a memory access request from one of the ports, to determine a particular one of the rows based on an address indicated by the memory access request, and to access the indicated row and the overflow buffer to perform a memory access operation.

Among other aspects, *Bellenger* and *Runaldue*, whether alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest (1) "a plurality of memory banks logically divided into a plurality of rows, wherein each of the rows comprises a storage location from each of the memory banks," and (2) "an overflow buffer comprising a plurality of overflow storage locations each capable of maintaining a routing entry," as Claim 1 requires.

A. The cited references fail to teach “a plurality of memory banks logically divided into a plurality of rows, wherein each of the rows comprises a storage location from each of the memory banks.”

Claim 1 requires “a plurality of memory banks logically divided into a plurality of rows, wherein each of the rows comprises a storage location from each of the memory banks.” The Examiner admits that *Bellenger* “is silent on memory logically divided into a plurality of rows, wherein each row includes storage location for memory” *Office Action*, p. 3. As teaching these claimed aspects, the *Office Action* relies on *Runaldu*. *Office Action*, p. 3. Specifically, the *Office Action* cites *Runaldu*, Abstract; column 2, lines 51-67; and column 9, lines 54-63. *Office Action*, p. 3. The Abstract in *Runaldu* describes “[a] method and arrangement for maintaining a time order of entries in a memory [that] determines a row in which the entry will be stored, the memory being divided into rows and columns.” However, *Runaldu*’s memory being divided into rows and columns fails to teach or suggest “memory banks logically divided into a plurality of rows, wherein each of the rows comprises a storage location from each of the memory banks,” as Claim 1 requires.

Therefore, *Runaldu* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Bellenger*. Independent Claims 10 and 18 include limitations that, for substantially similar reasons, are not taught by *Bellenger* or *Runaldu*. Because *Bellenger* and *Runaldu* do not teach or suggest every element of independent Claims 1, 10, and 18, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 10, and 18 and their respective dependent claims.

B. The cited references fail to teach “an overflow buffer comprising a plurality of overflow storage locations each capable of maintaining a routing entry.”

Claim 1 requires “an overflow buffer comprising a plurality of overflow storage locations each capable of maintaining a routing entry.” The Examiner admits that *Bellenger* “is silent on . . . overflow buffer maintaining routing entry and to access row and the overflow buffer to perform a memory access operation.” *Office Action*, p. 3. As teaching these claimed aspects, the *Office Action* relies on *Runaldu*. *Office Action*, p. 3.

Specifically, the *Office Action* cites *Runaldu*, elements 110, 120, 122, 124, and 128, and column 11, lines 13-53 as disclosing an overflow buffer. *Office Action*, p. 3. The cited portion of *Runaldu* states that “overflow areas store entries that do not fit into the control queues on the chip 12 [and] are therefore placed into the external memory 36.” The cited portion of *Runaldu* also states that “[u]se of a shared memory for providing overflow regions for the respective network ports enables busy network ports to temporarily store overflow data.” Col. 2, lines 49-50. *Runaldu*, col. 11, ll. 36-38. However, *Runaldu*’s “overflow regions . . . to temporarily store overflow data” fail to teach or suggest “an overflow buffer comprising a plurality of overflow storage locations each capable of maintaining a routing entry,” as Claim 1 requires.

Therefore, *Runaldu* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Bellenger*. Independent Claims 10 and 18 include limitations that, for substantially similar reasons, are not taught by *Runaldu* and *Bellenger*. Because *Runaldu* and *Bellenger* do not teach or suggest every element of independent Claims 1, 10, and 18, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 10, and 18 and their respective dependent claims.

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CONCLUSION

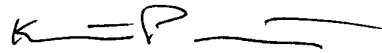
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for all other reasons clear and apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of this Application.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the Customer Number listed below.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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